





YEAH
RIGHT

NO.
IT'S TRUE
YOU DON'T
KNOW
GABRIEL
LIKE I
DO



FOR
STARTERS,
GABRIEL
HAS NEVER
HAD A
HEALTHY
FAMILY
LIFE

I NEVER MET
HIS FATHER,
BUT HIS MOTHER
WAS VERY
ABUSIVE



IN FACT, THE DAY WE MET
HE HAD RAN AWAY FROM
HIS APARTMENT AND WAS
HIDING IN ONE OF THE
BUILDING'S STORAGE ROOMS.

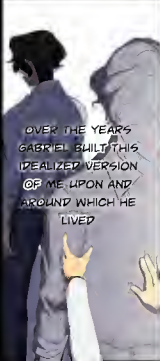


NOT ONLY
THAT TIME...


BUT EVERY
TIME.

HE LOOKED SO MEEK
AND DEFENSELESS
THAT I COULDN'T HELP
BUT FEEL LIKE
RESCUING HIM



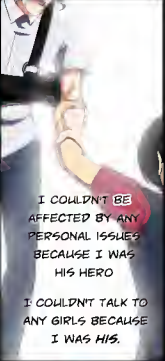


OVER THE YEARS
GABRIEL BUILT THIS
IDEALIZED VERSION
OF ME UPON AND
AROUND WHICH HE
LIVED



AND SO I COULDN'T
HAVE FLAWS BECAUSE
I WAS PERFECT

I COULDN'T HAVE
ANY OTHER FRIENDS
BECAUSE I WAS
HIS FRIEND




I COULDN'T BE
AFFECTED BY ANY
PERSONAL ISSUES
BECAUSE I WAS
HIS HERO

I COULDN'T TALK TO
ANY GIRLS BECAUSE
I WAS HIS.




I WENT FROM
SAVIOR TO SLAVE
AND I KNEW THAT
THE ONLY WAY
TO BREAK THE
CICLE WAS FOR
GABRIEL TO BREAK
FREE FROM HIS
CAPTOR

HIS
MOTHER



HOWEVER I KNEW GABRIEL'S
FEELINGS WOULDN'T LET HIM
LEAVE WITHOUT ME,

SO THE NEXT TIME HIS MOTHER
KICKED HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE,
I TOLD GABRIEL TO RUN AWAY
TO BASTIAN WITH THE PROMISE
ID FOLLOW WHEN I WAS READY



IT BROKE
MY HEART TO
SEE HIM GO,
BUT I KNEW
MY HARMLESS
LIE WAS FOR
HIS OWN
GOOD



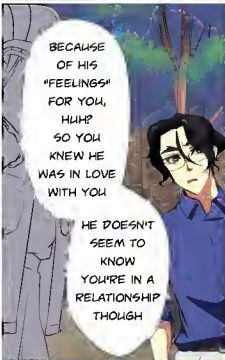
AWW
JON
...

WELL-
NO. I WAS
HOPING
HE'D BE
ABLE TO
START A
NEW LIFE
IN BASTIAN



OH,
SO THAT'S
WHY YOU
KEPT
MESSAGING
HIM FOR
MORAL
SUPPORT!

SO HE'D
FORGET
YOU FASTER!
OF COURSE!



BECAUSE
OF HIS
"FEELINGS"
FOR YOU,
HUH?
SO YOU
KNEW HE
WAS IN LOVE
WITH YOU

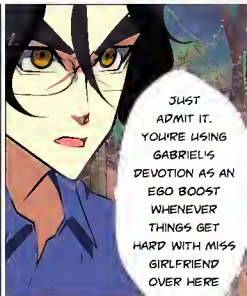
HE DOESN'T
SEEM TO
KNOW
YOU'RE IN A
RELATIONSHIP
THOUGH



MAKE NEW
FRIENDS,
MAYBE
FALL IN
LOVE-
YOU KNOW,
SO HE'D
FORGET
ABOUT ME




IS THAT
ALSO WHY
YOU HAVEN'T
BLOCKED HIS
NUMBER
EVEN THOUGH
YOU CLEARLY
WANTED TO
"BREAK FREE"
FROM HIM?




JUST
ADMIT IT.
YOU'RE USING
GABRIEL'S
DEVOTION AS AN
EGO BOOST
WHENEVER
THINGS GET
HARD WITH MISS
GIRLFRIEND
OVER HERE



LISTEN,
MR. BOOTLEG.
I'M GOING TO
DO YOU A
FAVOR AND
WARN YOU
ABOUT WHAT'S
TO COME, SINCE IT'S
CLEAR YOU'RE
~~NOTHING BUT~~
A CHEAP
REPLACEMENT



HE'S
GOING TO
INVADE-
NO-
INFECT YOUR
PERSONAL
SPACE



HE'LL DO
EVERYTHING
TO BE HAPPY
HIMSELF,
DISREGARDING
WHAT YOU
MIGHT THINK,
WANT, OR
FEEL.




HE'LL PUT
YOU IN A
PEDESTAL
AND THEN
CHASTISE
YOU WHEN
YOU DON'T
FIT ON IT.



HE DID
IT TO ME
FOR YEARS
UNTIL IT
MADE ME
PHYSICALLY
ILL TO BE
AROUND
HIM,



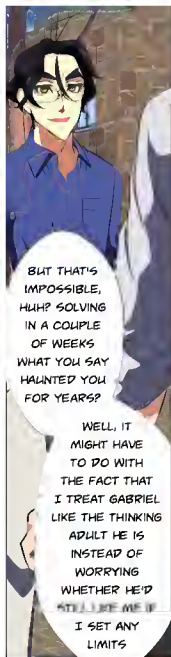
AND NOW
HE'LL DO
THE SAME
TO YOU



HMM...
YES, HE DID
A COUPLE OF
THOSE ALREADY,
BUT GUESS
WHAT?



ALL IT
TOOK WAS
A LITTLE
CHAT AND
HE STOPPED.



BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, HUH? SOLVING IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS WHAT YOU SAY HAUNTED YOU FOR YEARS?

WELL, IT MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT I TREAT GABRIEL LIKE THE THINKING ADULT HE IS INSTEAD OF WORRYING WHETHER HE'D

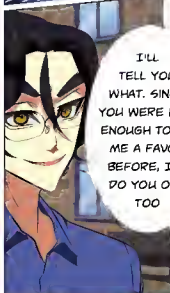
STILL LIKE ME IF

I SET ANY LIMITS



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I WAS TRYING TO SPARE HIS FEELINGS! I COULDN'T TELL HIM HE WAS HURTING ME!

OH SURE, YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL.



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. SINCE YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO DO ME A FAVOR BEFORE, I'LL DO YOU ONE TOO



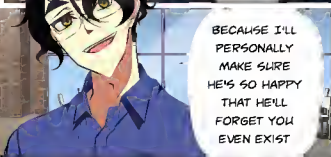
I'LL TAKE THE BULLET FOR YOU AND TELL GABRIEL EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL, HOW DOES THAT SOUND?



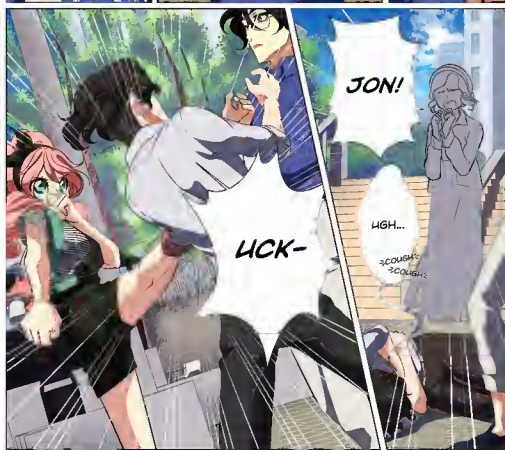
THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE WORSHIP AND THE WAITING, DON'T YOU THINK? YOU'LL BE FREE AT LAST



AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIS FEELINGS



BECAUSE I'LL PERSONALLY MAKE SURE HE'S SO HAPPY THAT HE'LL FORGET YOU EVEN EXIST



...
SEEMS
LIKE
SOMEONE
WASN'T
READY TO
LOSE HIS
PEDESTAL

LET'S GO
KEREN, WE
STILL HAVE
MORE SIGHT-
SEEING TO
DO

AND DO
ME A
FAVOR AND
NEVER
CONTACT
GABRIEL
AGAIN

THAT WAS
IMPRESSIVE,
WHAT WAS
THAT?

OH, I
USED TO
DO SOME
MMA WHEN
I LIVED IN
THE STATES,
NOTHING
SPECIAL

SO THAT
"BENCH-
PRESSING
NERDS"
THING
WASN'T A
JOKE?

NOPE!

AND
SPEAKING OF
SERIOUS
THINGS,

I THINK
YOU OWE
ME AN
EXPLANATION

FAUST



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